

# STATE OF MONTANA REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

	RFP Number:	RFP Title:
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<u>060135</u> Montana Sagebrush Initiative Coordinator(s)

RFP Response Due Date and Time:

March 1, 2006 2:00 p.m., Local Time

Number of Pages: 23

ISSUING AGENCY INFORMATION		
Procurement Officer: Sally Byrd, 406-495-3249	Issue Date: January 25, 2006	
Fish, Wildlife and Parks P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701	Phone: (406) 495-3249 Fax: (406) 444-3253 TTY Users, Dial 711	
	Website: http://www.fwp.mt.gov	

## INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

Return Proposal to:

RFP #060135 Sagebrush Due 03/01/06 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Purchasing Unit P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701 Mark Face of Envelope/Package:

**RFP Number: 060135** 

RFP Response Due Date: 3/1/06

**Special Instructions:** 

## **IMPORTANT: SEE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

OFFERORS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING			
Offeror Name/Address:	Authorized Offeror Signatory:		
	(Please print name and sign in ink)		
Offeror Phone Number:	Offeror FAX Number:		
Offeror E-mail Address:			
OFFERORS MUST RETURN THIS COVER SHEET WITH RFP RESPONSE			

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## **OFFEROR'S RFP CHECKLIST**

# The 10 Most Critical Things to Keep in Mind When Responding to an RFP for the State of Montana

1.	 <b>Read the </b> <u>entire</u> <b>document.</b> Note critical items such as: mandatory requirements; supplies/services required; submittal dates; number of copies required for submittal; funding amount and source; contract requirements (i.e., contract performance security, insurance requirements, performance and/or reporting requirements, etc.).
2.	 Note the procurement officer's name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address. This is the only person you are allowed to communicate with regarding the RFP and is an excellent source of information for any questions you may have.
3.	 <b>Attend the pre-proposal conference</b> if one is offered. These conferences provide an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, obtain a better understanding of the project, or to notify the State of any ambiguities, inconsistencies, or errors in the RFP.
4.	 <b>Take advantage of the "question and answer" period.</b> Submit your questions to the procurement officer by the due date listed in the Schedule of Events and view the answers given in the formal "addenda" issued for the RFP. All addenda issued for an RFP are posted on the agency website and will include all questions asked and answered concerning the RFP.
5.	 <b>Follow the format required in the RFP</b> when preparing your response. Provide point-by-point responses to all sections in a clear and concise manner.
6.	 <b>Provide complete answers/descriptions.</b> Read and answer <b>all</b> questions and requirements. Don't assume the State or evaluator/evaluation committee will know what your company capabilities are or what items/services you can provide, even if you have previously contracted with the State. The proposals are evaluated based solely on the information and materials provided in your response.
7.	 Use the forms provided, i.e., cover page, sample budget form, certification forms, etc.
8.	 Check the Agency's website for RFP addenda. Before submitting your response, check the State's website at <a href="http://www.fwp.mt.gov">http://www.fwp.mt.gov</a> to see whether any addenda were issued for the RFP. If so, you must submit a signed cover sheet for each addendum issued along with your RFP response.
9.	 <b>Review and read the RFP document again</b> to make sure that you have addressed all requirements. Your original response and the requested copies must be identical and be complete. The copies are provided to the evaluator/evaluation committee members and will be used to score your response.
10.	 <b>Submit your response on time.</b> Note all the dates and times listed in the Schedule of Events and within the document, and be sure to submit all required items on time. Late proposal responses are <i>never</i> accepted.

This checklist is provided for assistance only and should not be submitted with Offeror's Response.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	DATE
RFP Issue Date	<u>1/25/06</u>
Deadline for Receipt of Written Questions	<u>2/10/06</u>
Deadline for Posting of Written Responses to the State's Website	<u>2/15/06</u>
RFP Response Due Date	<u>3/1/06</u>
Intended Date for Contract Award (Optional)	4/1/06

## **SECTION 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS**

## 1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

### 1.0.1 INTRODUCTION

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is soliciting for a contractor to facilitate the Montana Sagebrush Initiative Program, including contacting and working with landowners; completing application and agreement forms; conducting field reviews of potential project sites; mapping project areas and sagebrush distribution via use of laptop computer, maps, and GPS; determining land ownership and legal descriptions; and notarizing documents. Work will require on-site meetings at various locations around Montana as well as setting up appointments for coordinating the completion of applications and contracts. Contractor will communicate progress, coordinate with, and receive instruction from FWP Bird Coordinator in Helena.

#### 1.0.2. GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

#### COMPLIANCE WITH WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

The Contractor is required to supply FWP with proof of compliance with the Montana Workers' Compensation Act while performing work for the State of Montana. (Mont. Code Ann. §§ 39-71-120, 39-71-401, and 39-71-405.) Neither the Contractor nor its employees are employees of the State. The proof of insurance/exemption must be received by FWP, Purchasing Unit, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, within 10 working days of the Request for Documents Notice and must be kept current for the entire term of the contract.

CONTRACTS WILL NOT BE ISSUED TO VENDORS WHO FAIL TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WITHIN THE ALLOTTED TIME FRAME.

Insurance coverage to be provided through a private carrier or through the State Compensation Insurance Fund (406) 444-6500. An exemption for Montana Workers Comp is obtained by request through the Department of Labor and Industry, Employment Relations Division (406) 444-1446. Corporate officers must provide documentation of their exempt status.

#### 1.0.3. GENERAL OVERVIEW

FWP has been awarded a federal grant for purchasing 30-year leases on private land with the intent of protecting sagebrush grassland habitats from activities intended to reduce or eliminate sagebrush and forbs (i.e., herbicides, prescribed fire, tillage). This program, known as the Montana Sagebrush Initiative, will be administered and partially funded through the Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program.

Based on a number of habitat and sage grouse survey criteria, FWP has developed a list of priority landowners that will be contacted and solicited for interest in the program. Contractors will meet with interested landowners to inspect and map properties that qualify for the program, to fill out applications, and to map sagebrush. Contractors will meet a second time with funded applicants to write up contracts, organize and proof maps, and notarize signatures.

FWP will be responsible for: helping coordinate efforts between regions and contractors, ranking applications and determining what will be funded, developing title searches, and recording executed contracts at local courthouses.

Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in wildlife biology or related field and extensive experience working with landowners on habitat conservation projects. Abilities in identifying sage grouse habitats, mapping sagebrush and properties using GPS and laptop mapping systems, developing contracts, and communicating program requirements are essential. Applicant must be a notary public in Montana.

## 1.1 CONTRACT TERM

The contract term is for a period of 2 years beginning April 1, 2006 and ending March 31, 2008. This contract may be renewed at the end of two years in two-year increments not to exceed a total of 4 years, by mutual agreement of both parties. This contract, including any renewals, may not exceed a total of 4 years, at the option of the State.

## 1.2 SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

From the date this Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued until an offeror is selected and the selection is announced by the procurement officer, offerors are not allowed to communicate with any state staff or officials regarding this procurement, except at the direction of <u>Sally Byrd</u>, the procurement officer in charge of the solicitation. Any unauthorized contact may disqualify the offeror from further consideration. Contact information for the single point of contact is as follows:

Procurement Officer: Sally Byrd
Address: 930 Custer Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Telephone Number: (406) 495-3249
Fax Number: (406) 495-3253
E-mail Address: sbyrd@mt.gov

## 1.3 REQUIRED REVIEW

- 1.3.1 Review RFP. Offerors should carefully review the instructions, mandatory requirements, specifications, standard terms and conditions, and contract set out in this RFP and promptly notify the procurement officer identified above in writing or via e-mail of any ambiguity, inconsistency, unduly restrictive specifications, or error which they discover upon examination of this RFP. This should include any terms or requirements within the RFP that either preclude the offeror from responding to the RFP or add unnecessary cost. This notification must be accompanied by an explanation and suggested modification and be received by the deadline for receipt of written or e-mailed inquiries set forth below. The State will make any final determination of changes to the RFP.
- **1.3.2 Form of Questions.** Offerors with questions or requiring clarification or interpretation of any section within this RFP must address these questions in writing or via e-mail to the procurement officer referenced above on or before **February 10, 2006**. Each question must provide clear reference to the section, page, and item in question. Questions received after the deadline may not be considered.
- 1.3.3 State's Response. The State will provide an official written response by February 15, 2006 to all questions received by February 10,2006. The State's response will be by formal written addendum. Any other form of interpretation, correction, or change to this RFP will not be binding upon the State. Any formal written addendum will be posted on the Agency's website alongside the posting of the RFP at <a href="http://www.fwp.mt.gov">http://www.fwp.mt.gov</a> by the close of business on the date listed.

## 1.4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.4.1 Acceptance of Standard Terms and Conditions/Contract. By submitting a response to this RFP, offeror agrees to acceptance of the standard terms and conditions and contract as set out in Appendices A and B of this RFP. Much of the language included in the standard terms and conditions and contract reflects requirements of Montana law. Requests for additions or exceptions to the standard terms and conditions, contract terms, including any necessary licenses, or any added provisions must be submitted to the procurement officer referenced above by the date for receipt of written/e-mailed questions and must be

accompanied by an explanation of why the exception is being sought and what specific effect it will have on the offeror's ability to respond to the RFP or perform the contract. The State reserves the right to address non-material requests for exceptions with the highest scoring offeror during contract negotiation. Any material exceptions requested and granted to the standard terms and conditions and contract language will be addressed in any formal written addendum issued for this RFP and will apply to all offerors submitting a response to this RFP. The State will make any final determination of changes to the standard terms and conditions and/or contract.

- 1.4.2 Resulting Contract. This RFP and any addenda, the offeror's RFP response, including any amendments, a best and final offer, and any clarification question responses shall be included in any resulting contract. The State's contract, attached as Appendix B, contains the contract terms and conditions which will form the basis of any contract between the State and the highest scoring offeror. In the event of a dispute as to the duties and responsibilities of the parties under this contract, the contract, along with any attachments prepared by the State, will govern in the same order of precedence as listed in the contract.
- <u>1.4.3 Mandatory Requirements.</u> To be eligible for consideration, an offeror *must* meet the intent of all mandatory requirements. The State will determine whether an offeror's RFP response complies with the intent of the requirements. RFP responses that do not meet the full intent of all requirements listed in this RFP may be subject to point reductions during the evaluation process or may be deemed non-responsive.
- <u>1.4.4 Understanding of Specifications and Requirements.</u> By submitting a response to this RFP, offeror agrees to an understanding of and compliance with the specifications and requirements described in this RFP.
- 1.4.5 Prime Contractor/Subcontractors. The highest scoring offeror will be the prime contractor if a contract is awarded and shall be responsible, in total, for all work of any subcontractors. All subcontractors, if any, must be listed in the proposal. The State reserves the right to approve all subcontractors. The Contractor shall be responsible to the State for the acts and omissions of all subcontractors or agents and of persons directly or indirectly employed by such subcontractors, and for the acts and omissions of persons employed directly by the Contractor. Further, nothing contained within this document or any contract documents created as a result of any contract awards derived from this RFP shall create any contractual relationships between any subcontractor and the State.
- <u>1.4.6 Offeror's Signature.</u> The proposals must be signed in ink by an individual authorized to legally bind the business submitting the proposal. The offeror's signature on a proposal in response to this RFP guarantees that the offer has been established without collusion and without effort to preclude the State of Montana from obtaining the best possible supply or service. Proof of authority of the person signing the RFP response must be furnished upon request.
- <u>1.4.7 Offer in Effect for 120 Days.</u> A proposal may not be modified, withdrawn or canceled by the offeror for a 120-day period following the deadline for proposal submission as defined in the Schedule of Events, or receipt of best and final offer, if required, and offeror so agrees in submitting the proposal.

## 1.5 SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

1.6.1 Organization of Proposal. Offerors must organize their proposal into sections that follow the format of this RFP. A point-by-point response to all numbered sections, subsections, and appendices is required. If no explanation or clarification is required in the offeror's response to a specific subsection, the offeror shall indicate so in the point-by-point response or utilize a blanket response for the entire section with the following statement:

"(Offeror's Name)" understands and will comply.

Offerors must also submit references and resume, as detailed in section 4, to respond to this RFP.

- <u>1.5.2 Failure to Comply with Instructions.</u> Offerors failing to comply with these instructions may be subject to point deductions. The State may also choose to not evaluate, may deem non-responsive, and/or may disqualify from further consideration any proposals that do not follow this RFP format, are difficult to understand, are difficult to read, or are missing any requested information.
- <u>1.5.3 Multiple Proposals.</u> Offerors may, at their option, submit multiple proposals, in which case each proposal shall be evaluated as a separate document.
- 1.5.4 Copies Required and Deadline for Receipt of Proposals. Offerors must submit one original proposal and 2 copies to the Fish Wildlife and Parks, Purchasing Unit, 930 Custer Ave, P O Box 200701, Helena MT 59620. In addition, offerors must submit one electronic copy of the proposal, preferably in PDF format, on compact disk. Offerors unable to provide an electronic copy of the proposal in PDF format must provide it in Word or text format. PROPOSALS MUST BE SEALED AND LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE PACKAGE to clearly indicate that they are in response to RFP 060135. Proposals must be received Fish Wildlife and Park, Purchasing Unit, 930 Custer Av, P O Box 200701 Helena MT 59620 prior to 2:00, local time, March 1, 2006. Facsimile responses to requests for proposals are ONLY accepted on an exception basis with prior approval of the procurement officer.
- <u>1.5.5</u> <u>Late Proposals.</u> Regardless of cause, late proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the offeror's sole risk to assure delivery at the receptionist's desk at the designated office by the designated time. Late proposals will not be opened and may be returned to the offeror at the expense of the offeror or destroyed if requested.

## 1.6 COST OF PREPARING A PROPOSAL

- <u>1.6.1</u> State Not Responsible for Preparation Costs. The costs for developing and delivering responses to this RFP and any subsequent presentations of the proposal as requested by the State are entirely the responsibility of the offeror. The State is not liable for any expense incurred by the offeror in the preparation and presentation of their proposal or any other costs incurred by the offeror prior to execution of a contract.
- **1.6.2** All Timely Submitted Materials Become State Property. All materials submitted in response to this RFP become the property of the State and are to be appended to any formal documentation, which would further define or expand any contractual relationship between the State and offeror resulting from this RFP process.

## **SECTION 2: RFP STANDARD INFORMATION**

## 2.0 AUTHORITY

This RFP is issued under the authority of section 18-4-304, MCA (Montana Code Annotated) and ARM 2.5.602 (Administrative Rules of Montana). The RFP process is a procurement option allowing the award to be based on stated evaluation criteria. The RFP states the relative importance of all evaluation criteria. No other evaluation criteria, other than as outlined in the RFP, will be used.

## 2.1 OFFEROR COMPETITION

The State encourages free and open competition among offerors. Whenever possible, the State will design specifications, proposal requests, and conditions to accomplish this objective, consistent with the necessity to satisfy the State's need to procure technically sound, cost-effective services and supplies.

## 2.2 RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS AND PUBLIC INSPECTION

- **2.2.1 Public Information.** All information received in response to this RFP, including copyrighted material, is deemed public information and will be made available for public viewing and copying shortly after the time for receipt of proposals has passed with the following three exceptions: (1) bona fide trade secrets meeting the requirements of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, chapter 14, part 4, MCA, that have been properly marked, separated, and documented; (2) matters involving individual safety as determined by the State; and (3) other constitutional protections. See Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-304.
- **2.2.2** Procurement Officer Review of Proposals. Upon opening the proposals received in response to this RFP, the procurement officer in charge of the solicitation will review the proposals and separate out any information that meets the referenced exceptions in Section 2.2.1 above, providing the following conditions have been met:
- Confidential information is clearly marked and separated from the rest of the proposal.
- The proposal does not contain confidential material in the cost or price section.
- An affidavit from an offeror's legal counsel attesting to and explaining the validity of the trade secret claim
  as set out in Title 30, chapter 14, part 4, MCA, is attached to each proposal containing trade secrets.
  Counsel must use the State of Montana "Affidavit for Trade Secret Confidentiality" form in requesting the
  trade secret claim. This affidavit form is available on the General Services Division's website at:
  <a href="http://www.mt.gov/doa/gsd/procurement/forms">http://www.mt.gov/doa/gsd/procurement/forms</a> or by calling (406) 444-2575.

Information separated out under this process will be available for review only by the procurement officer, the evaluator/evaluation committee members, and limited other designees. Offerors must be prepared to pay all legal costs and fees associated with defending a claim for confidentiality in the event of a "right to know" (open records) request from another party.

## 2.3 CLASSIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

2.3.1 Initial Classification of Proposals as Responsive or Nonresponsive. All proposals will initially be classified as either "responsive" or "nonresponsive," in accordance with ARM 2.5.602. Proposals may be found nonresponsive at any time during the procurement process if any of the required information is not provided; the submitted price is found to be excessive or inadequate as measured by criteria stated in the RFP; or the proposal is not within the plans and specifications described and required in the RFP. If a proposal is found to be nonresponsive, it will not be considered further.

- **2.3.2 Determination of Responsibility.** The procurement officer will determine whether an offeror has met the standards of responsibility in accordance with ARM 2.5.407. Such a determination may be made at any time during the procurement process if information surfaces that would result in a determination of nonresponsibility. If an offeror is found nonresponsible, the determination must be in writing, made a part of the procurement file and mailed to the affected offeror.
- **2.3.3 Evaluation of Proposals.** An evaluator/evaluation committee will evaluate the remaining proposals and recommend whether to award the contract to the highest scoring offeror or, if necessary, to seek discussion/negotiation or a best and final offer in order to determine the highest scoring offeror. All responsive proposals will be evaluated based on stated evaluation criteria. In scoring against stated criteria, the State may consider such factors as accepted industry standards and a comparative evaluation of all other qualified RFP responses in terms of differing price, quality, and contractual factors. These scores will be used to determine the most advantageous offering to the State. If an evaluation committee meets to deliberate and evaluate the proposals, the public may attend and observe the evaluation committee deliberations.
- **2.3.4** Completeness of Proposals. Selection and award will be based on the offeror's proposal and other items outlined in this RFP. Submitted responses may not include references to information located elsewhere, such as Internet websites or libraries, unless specifically requested. Information or materials presented by offerors outside the formal response or subsequent discussion/negotiation or "best and final offer," if requested, will not be considered, will have no bearing on any award, and may result in the offeror being disgualified from further consideration.
- 2.3.5 Opportunity for Discussion/Negotiation and/or Oral Presentation/Product Demonstration. After receipt of all proposals and prior to the determination of the award, the State may initiate discussions with one or more offerors should clarification or negotiation be necessary. Offerors may also be required to make an oral presentation and/or product demonstration to clarify their RFP response or to further define their offer. In either case, offerors should be prepared to send qualified personnel to <a href="Helena">Helena</a>, Montana, to discuss technical and contractual aspects of the proposal. Oral presentations and product demonstrations, if requested, shall be at the offeror's expense.
- **2.3.6** Best and Final Offer. The "Best and Final Offer" is an option available to the State under the RFP process, which permits the State to request a "best and final offer" from one or more offerors if additional information is required to make a final decision. Offerors may be contacted asking that they submit their "best and final offer," which must include any and all discussed and/or negotiated changes. The State reserves the right to request a "best and final offer" for this RFP, if any, based on price/cost alone.
- **2.3.7** Evaluator/Evaluation Committee Recommendation for Contract Award. The evaluator/evaluation committee will provide a written recommendation for contract award to the procurement officer that contains the scores, justification and rationale for the decision. The procurement officer will review the recommendation to ensure its compliance with the RFP process and criteria before concurring in the evaluator's/evaluation committee's recommendation.
- 2.3.8 Request for Documents Notice. Upon concurrence with the evaluator's/evaluation committee's recommendation for contract award, the procurement officer will issue a "Request for Documents Notice" to the highest scoring offeror to obtain the required insurance documents, contract performance security, an electronic copy of any requested material, i.e., response to clarification questions and/or Best and Final Offer, and any other necessary documents. Receipt of the "Request for Documents Notice" does not constitute a contract and no work may begin until a contract signed by all parties is in place. The procurement officer will notify all other offerors of the State's intent to begin contract negotiation with the highest scoring offeror.
- **2.3.9 Contract Negotiation.** Upon issuance of the "Request for Documents Notice," the procurement officer and/or state agency representatives may begin contract negotiation with the responsive and responsible offeror whose proposal achieves the highest score and is, therefore, the most advantageous to the State. If

contract negotiation is unsuccessful or the highest scoring offeror fails to provide necessary documents or information in a timely manner, or fails to negotiate in good faith, the State may terminate negotiations and begin negotiations with the next highest scoring offeror.

**2.3.10 Contract Award.** Contract award, if any, will be made to the highest scoring offeror who provides all required documents and successfully completes contract negotiation. A formal contract utilizing the Contract attached as Appendix B and incorporating the Standard Terms and Conditions attached as Appendix A will be executed by all parties.

## 2.4 STATE'S RIGHTS RESERVED

While the State has every intention to award a contract as a result of this RFP, issuance of the RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State of Montana to award and execute a contract. Upon a determination such actions would be in its best interest, the State, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to:

- cancel or terminate this RFP (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-307);
- reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP (ARM 2.5.602);
- waive any undesirable, inconsequential, or inconsistent provisions of this RFP which would not have significant impact on any proposal (ARM 2.5.505);
- not award if it is in the best interest of the State not to proceed with contract execution (ARM 2.5.602); or
- if awarded, terminate any contract if the State determines adequate state funds are not available (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-313).

### SECTION 3: SCOPE OF PROJECT

## 3.0 Scope of Project

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is soliciting for a contractor to facilitate the Montana Sagebrush Initiative Program, including contacting and working with landowners; completing application and agreement forms; conducting field reviews of potential project sites; mapping project areas and sagebrush distribution via use of laptop computer, maps, and GPS; determining land ownership and legal descriptions; and notarizing documents. Work will require on-site meetings at various locations around Montana as well as setting up appointments for coordinating the completion of applications and contracts. Contractor will communicate progress, coordinate with, and receive instruction from FWP Bird Coordinator in Helena.

FWP has been awarded a federal grant for purchasing 30-year leases on private land with the intent of protecting sagebrush grassland habitats from activities intended to reduce or eliminate sagebrush and forbs (i.e., herbicides, prescribed fire, tillage). This program, known as the Montana Sagebrush Initiative, will be administered and partially funded through the Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program.

Based on a number of habitat and sage grouse survey criteria, FWP has developed a list of priority landowners that will be contacted and solicited for interest in the program. Contractors will meet with interested landowners to inspect and map properties that qualify for the program, to fill out applications, and to map sagebrush. Contractors will meet a second time with funded applicants to write up contracts, organize and proof maps, and notarize signatures.

FWP will be responsible for: helping coordinate efforts between regions and contractors, ranking applications and determining what will be funded, developing title searches, and recording executed contracts at local courthouses.

Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in wildlife biology or related field and extensive experience working with landowners on habitat conservation projects. Contractors must have the abilities to identify sage grouse habitats, map sagebrush and properties using GPS and laptop mapping systems, develop contracts, and communicate program requirements. Successful applicant must be able to provide computer, adequate vehicle and any other necessary equipment to accomplish the tasks listed in this RFP and be a notary public official in the state of Montana.

## SECTION 4: OFFEROR QUALIFICATIONS/INFORMATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

## 4.0 STATE'S RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE AND REJECT

The State may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the offeror to provide the supplies and/or perform the services specified. The State reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the offeror fails to satisfy the State that the offeror is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract. This includes the State's ability to reject the proposal based on negative references.

## 4.1 OFFEROR QUALIFICATIONS/INFORMATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In order for the State to determine the capabilities of an offeror to provide the supplies and/or perform the services specified in Section 3 above, the offeror must respond to the following requests for information regarding its ability to meet the State's requirements. THE RESPONSE "(OFFEROR'S NAME) UNDERSTANDS AND WILL COMPLY" IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SECTION.

NOTE: Each item must be thoroughly addressed. Offerors taking exception to any requirements listed in this section may be found non-responsive or be subject to point deductions.

#### 4.1.1 References.

Offeror shall provide a minimum of 3 references that are using services of the type proposed in this RFP. The references must include where the offeror, preferably within the last 2 years, has successfully completed habitat contracts with landowners for state government. At a minimum, the offeror shall provide the company name, the location where the services were provided, contact person(s), customer's telephone number, e-mail address, and a complete description of the service type, and dates the services were provided. These references may be contacted to verify offeror's ability to perform the contract. The State reserves the right to use any information or additional references deemed necessary to establish the ability of the offeror to perform the conditions of the contract. Negative references may be grounds for proposal disqualification. Are they credible? How recent did the contractor work with the references? What level of satisfaction do the references provide? Are any of the references government agencies?

#### 4.1.2 Resumes/Company Profile and Experience.

Offeror shall specify how long the individual/company submitting the proposal has been in the business of providing supplies and/or services similar to those requested in this RFP and under what company name. Offeror should provide a complete description of any relevant past projects, including the supply/service type and dates the supplies and/or services were provided. A resume or summary of qualifications, work experience, education, skills, etc., which emphasizes previous experience in this area should be provided for all key personnel who will be involved with any aspects of the contract. Agency will be looking specifically for contractor experience; in working for or representing a natural resource government agency, developing agreements with private landowners, with ranching operations, in communicating wildlife management concepts with the public, sage grouse habitat conservation and issues, identifying and assessing native vegetation, fieldwork in remote locations and how extensive is the experience? What biological training does the contractor have? What skills does the contractor have for mapping and use of GPS and mapping software? Is the contractor a Public notary?

## 4.1.3 Ability to Meet Supply Specifications.

Offeror shall provide information as to its ability to meet the following supply specifications, as more specifically detailed above in Section 3. Is the contractor available within 2-3 week timeframes to meet with landowners

and provide field reviews of habitats? Does the contractor have an appropriate vehicle for transportation in remote locations? Is the contractor experienced in accomplishing this type of work?

#### 4.1.4 Method of Providing Services.

Offeror shall provide a description of a work plan and the methods to be used that will convincingly demonstrate to the State what the offeror intends to do, the timeframes necessary to accomplish the work, and how the work will be accomplished to meet the contract requirements as more specifically detailed above in Section 3. Offeror must specifically address each of the following requirements as defined in this RFP: Demonstrated understanding of what is needed and capability of accomplishing tasks described. Demonstrated technical and skill abilities to accomplish field reviews and complete applications with landowners.

### **SECTION 5: COST PROPOSAL**

We will need 3 contractors for up to 400 hours apiece per year. Contractor must provide transportation and FWP will pay personal car mileage at the current federal rate. We anticipate up to 7000 miles of travel per year per contractor. We anticipate \$50/hour/contractor.

Cost per hour	\$

## **SECTION 6: EVALUATION PROCESS**

## 6.0 BASIS OF EVALUATION

The evaluator/evaluation committee will review and evaluate the offers according to the following criteria based on a total number of 100 points.

Any response that fails to achieve a passing score per the requirements of Section 2.3.5 will be eliminated from further consideration. A "fail" for any individual evaluation criteria may result in proposal disqualification at the discretion of the procurement officer.

#### SCORING GUIDE

In awarding points to the evaluation criteria, the evaluator/evaluation committee will consider the following guidelines:

**Superior Response (95-100%):** A superior response is a highly comprehensive, excellent reply that meets all of the requirements of the RFP. In addition, the response covers areas not originally addressed within the RFP and includes additional information and recommendations that would prove both valuable and beneficial to the agency.

**Good Response (85-94%):** A good response meets all the requirements of the RFP and demonstrates in a clear and concise manner a thorough knowledge and understanding of the project, with no deficiencies noted.

**Fair Response (60-84%):** A fair response minimally meets most requirements set forth in the RFP. The offeror demonstrates some ability to comply with guidelines and requirements of the project, but knowledge of the subject matter is limited.

**Failed Response (0-59%):** A failed response does not meet the requirements set forth in the RFP. The offeror has not demonstrated sufficient knowledge of the subject matter.

## 6.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Referencespossible 10 pointsCategorySection of RFPPoint ValueA. References4.1.110 Points

- Are they credible?
- How recent did the contractor work with the references?
- What level of satisfaction do the references provide?
- Are any of the references government agencies?

Resumes/Company Profile and Experience		possible 50 points		
	Category	Section of RFP	Point Value	
A.	Years of Experience	4.1.2	10 Points	
B.	Past Projects	4.1.2	10 Points	
C.	Public Notary	4.1.2	5 Points	
D.	GPS and Mapping Software Skills	4.1.2	10 Points	
E.	Training	4.1.2	10 Points	

• How long has the individual/company submitting the proposal been in the business of providing supplies and/or services similar to those requested in this RFP. Offeror should provide a complete description of any relevant past projects, including the supply/service type and dates the supplies and/or services were provided. A resume or summary of qualifications, work experience, education, skills, etc., which emphasizes previous experience in this area should be provided for all key personnel who will be involved with any aspects of the contract. Agency will be looking specifically for experience in:

working for or representing a natural resource government agency,

developing agreements with private landowners,

ranching operations.

communicating wildlife management concepts with the public,

sage grouse habitat conservation and issues,

identifying and assessing native vegetation,

fieldwork in remote locations

and how extensive is the experience? What biological training does the contractor have? What skills does the contractor have for mapping and use of GPS and mapping software? Is the contractor a Public notary?

Ability to Meet Supply Specifications		possible 30	0 points
	Category	Section of RFP	Point Value
A.	Available in timeframes needed.	4.1.3	10 Points
B.	Appropriate vehicle.	4.1.3	10 Points
C.	Experience in this type of work.	4.1.3	10 Points
	Is the contractor available within 2-3 w	eak timeframes to meet with land	downers and provide field

- Does the contractor have an appropriate vehicle for transportation in remote locations?
- Is the contractor experienced in accomplishing this type of work?

reviews of habitats?

Method of Providing Services		possible 10	0 points
	Category	Section of RFP	Point Value
Α.	Methods	4.1.4	5 Points
B.	Work Plan	4.1.4	5 Points

- Demonstrated understanding of what is needed and capability of accomplishing tasks described.
- Demonstrated technical and skill abilities to accomplish field reviews and complete applications with landowners.

Cost	Proposal	possible 5 points	
	Category	Section of RFP	Point Value
A.	Cost Proposal	5.0	5 Points
points Offer	est overall cost receives the maximum allotted points is available based on their cost relationship to the lower or A's cost is \$20,000. Offeror B's cost is \$30,000. Ove 20 points (\$20,000/\$30,000) = 67% x 30 points =	west. Example: Total possible Offeror A would receive 30 po	points for cost is 30.
Lowe	est Responsive Offer Total Cost x Number of a	vailable points = Award Point	:S

This Offeror's Total Cost

### APPENDIX A: STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**Standard Terms and Conditions** 

By submitting a response to this invitation for bid, request for proposal, limited solicitation, or acceptance of a contract, the vendor agrees to acceptance of the following Standard Terms and Conditions and any other provisions that are specific to this solicitation or contract.

ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION OF BIDS, PROPOSALS, OR LIMITED SOLICITATION RESPONSES: The State reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, proposals, or limited solicitation responses, wholly or in part, and to make awards in any manner deemed in the best interest of the State. Bids, proposals, and limited solicitation responses will be firm for 30 days, unless stated otherwise in the text of the invitation for bid, request for proposal, or limited solicitation. ACCESS AND RETENTION OF RECORDS: The contractor agrees to provide the department, Legislative Auditor, or their authorized agents, access to any records necessary to determine contract compliance (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-1-118). The contractor agrees to create and retain records supporting the services rendered or supplies delivered for a period of three years after either the completion date of the contract or the conclusion of any claim, litigation, or exception relating to the contract taken by the State of Montana or third party.

**ALTERATION OF SOLICITATION DOCUMENT:** In the event of inconsistencies or contradictions between language contained in the State's solicitation document and a vendor's response, the language contained in the State's original solicitation document will prevail. Intentional manipulation and/or alteration of solicitation document language will result in the vendor's disgualification and possible debarment.

**ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER AND SUBCONTRACTING:** The contractor shall not assign, transfer or subcontract any portion of the contract without the express written consent of the department. (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-141.) **AUTHORITY:** The following bid, request for proposal, limited solicitation, or contract is issued under authority of Title 18, Montana Code Annotated, and the Administrative Rules of Montana, Title 2, chapter 5.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** The contractor must, in performance of work under the contract, fully comply with all applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules and regulations, including the Montana Human Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any subletting or subcontracting by the contractor subjects subcontractors to the same provision. In accordance with section 49-3-207, MCA, the contractor agrees that the hiring of persons to perform the contract will be made on the basis of merit and qualifications and there will be no discrimination based upon race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or national origin by the persons performing the contract.

**CONFORMANCE WITH CONTRACT:** No alteration of the terms, conditions, delivery, price, quality, quantities, or specifications of the contract shall be granted without prior written consent of the State Procurement Bureau. Supplies delivered which do not conform to the contract terms, conditions, and specifications may be rejected and returned at the contractor's expense.

**DEBARMENT:** The contractor certifies, by submitting this bid or proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction (contract) by any governmental department or agency. If the contractor cannot certify this statement, attach a written explanation for review by the State.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:** The State of Montana does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. Individuals, who need aids, alternative document formats, or services for effective communications or other disability-related accommodations in the programs and services offered, are invited to make their needs and preferences known to this office. Interested parties should provide as much advance notice as possible.

**FACSIMILE RESPONSES:** Facsimile responses will be accepted for invitations for bids, small purchases or limited solicitations ONLY if they are completely <u>received</u> by the State Procurement Bureau prior to the time set for receipt. Bids, or portions thereof, received after the due time will not be considered. Facsimile responses to requests for proposals are ONLY accepted on an exception basis with prior approval of the procurement officer.

**FAILURE TO HONOR BID/PROPOSAL:** If a bidder/offeror to whom a contract is awarded refuses to accept the award (PO/contract) or, fails to deliver in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the department may, in its discretion, suspend the bidder/offeror for a period of time from entering into any contracts with the State of Montana.

**FORCE MAJEURE:** Neither party shall be responsible for failure to fulfill its obligations due to causes beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation, acts or omissions of government or military authority, acts of God, materials shortages, transportation delays, fires, floods, labor disturbances, riots, wars, terrorist acts, or any other causes, directly or indirectly beyond the reasonable control of the non-performing party, so long as such party is using its best efforts to remedy such failure or delays.

**HOLD HARMLESS/INDEMNIFICATION:** The contractor agrees to protect, defend, and save the State, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, while acting within the scope of their duties as such, harmless from and against all claims, demands, causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, arising in

favor of the contractor's employees or third parties on account of bodily or personal injuries, death, or damage to property arising out of services performed or omissions of services or in any way resulting from the acts or omissions of the contractor and/or its agents, employees, representatives, assigns, subcontractors, except the sole negligence of the State, under this agreement.

**LATE BIDS AND PROPOSALS:** Regardless of cause, late bids and proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be solely the vendor's risk to assure delivery at the designated office by the designated time. Late bids and proposals will not be opened and may be returned to the vendor at the expense of the vendor or destroyed if requested.

**PAYMENT TERM:** All payment terms will be computed from the date of delivery of supplies or services OR receipt of a properly executed invoice, whichever is later. Unless otherwise noted in the solicitation document, the State is allowed 30 days to pay such invoices. All contractors will be required to provide banking information at the time of contract execution in order to facilitate State electronic funds transfer payments.

**RECIPROCAL PREFERENCE:** The State of Montana applies a reciprocal preference against a vendor submitting a bid from a state or country that grants a residency preference to its resident businesses. A reciprocal preference is only applied to an invitation for bid for supplies or an invitation for bid for nonconstruction services for public works as defined in section 18-2-401(9), MCA, and then only if federal funds are not involved. For a list of states that grant resident preference, see <a href="http://www.mt.gov/doa/gsd/procurement/reciprocalpreference.asp">http://www.mt.gov/doa/gsd/procurement/reciprocalpreference.asp</a>.

**REFERENCE TO CONTRACT:** The contract or purchase order number MUST appear on all invoices, packing lists, packages and correspondence pertaining to the contract.

**REGISTRATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE:** Any business intending to transact business in Montana must register with the Secretary of State. Businesses that are incorporated in another state or country, but which are conducting activity in Montana, must determine whether they are transacting business in Montana in accordance with sections 35-1-1026 and 35-8-1001, MCA. Such businesses may want to obtain the guidance of their attorney or accountant to determine whether their activity is considered transacting business.

If businesses determine that they are transacting business in Montana, they must register with the Secretary of State and obtain a certificate of authority to demonstrate that they are in good standing in Montana. To obtain registration materials, call the Office of the Secretary of State at (406) 444-3665, or visit their website at <a href="http://www.sos.state.mt.us">http://www.sos.state.mt.us</a>.

**SEPARABILITY CLAUSE:** A declaration by any court, or any other binding legal source, that any provision of the contract is illegal and void shall not affect the legality and enforceability of any other provision of the contract, unless the provisions are mutually dependent.

**SHIPPING:** Supplies shall be shipped prepaid, F.O.B. Destination, unless the contract specifies otherwise.

**SOLICITATION DOCUMENT EXAMINATION:** Vendors shall promptly notify the State of any ambiguity, inconsistency, or error, which they may discover upon examination of a solicitation document.

**TAX EXEMPTION:** The State of Montana is exempt from Federal Excise Taxes (#81-0302402).

**TECHNOLOGY ACCESS FOR BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED:** Contractor acknowledges that no state funds may be expended for the purchase of information technology equipment and software for use by employees, program participants, or members of the public unless it provides blind or visually impaired individuals with access, including interactive use of the equipment and services, that is equivalent to that provided to individuals who are not blind or visually impaired. (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-5-603.) Contact the State Procurement Bureau at (406) 444-2575 for more information concerning nonvisual access standards.

**TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:** Unless otherwise stated, the State may, by written notice to the contractor, terminate the contract in whole or in part at any time the contractor fails to perform the contract.

**UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDING:** The contracting agency, at its sole discretion, may terminate or reduce the scope of the contract if available funding is reduced for any reason. (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-313(4).)

**U.S. FUNDS:** All prices and payments must be in U.S. dollars.

**VENUE:** This solicitation is governed by the laws of Montana. The parties agree that any litigation concerning this bid, request for proposal, limited solicitation, or subsequent contract, must be brought in the First Judicial District in and for the County of Lewis and Clark, State of Montana, and each party shall pay its own costs and attorney fees. (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-1-401.)

**WARRANTIES:** The contractor warrants that items offered will conform to the specifications requested, to be fit and sufficient for the purpose manufactured, of good material and workmanship and free from defect. Items offered must be new and unused and of the latest model or manufacture, unless otherwise specified by the State. They shall be equal in quality and performance to those indicated herein. Descriptions used herein are specified solely for the purpose of indicating standards of quality, performance and/or use desired. Exceptions will be rejected.

Revised 7/05

## **APPENDIX B: CONTRACT**

- 1. Parties
- 2. Effective Date, Duration and Renewal
- 3. Cost/Price Adjustments (Optional)
- 4. Services and/or Supplies
- 5. Consideration/Payment
- 6. Access and Retention of Records
- 7. Assignment, Transfer and Subcontracting
- 8. Hold Harmless/Indemnification
- 9. Required Insurance (Optional)
- 10. Compliance with Workers' Compensation Act
- 11. Compliance with Laws
- 15. Contract Termination
- 16. Liaison and Service of Notices
- 17. Meetings
- 19. Transition Assistance
- 20. Choice of Law and Venue
- 21. Scope, Amendment and Interpretation
- 22. Execution

# Coordinator Sagebrush Initiative 060135

#### 1. PARTIES

THIS CONTRACT, is entered into by and between the State of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife, (hereinafter referred to as "the State"), whose address and phone number are 1420 E 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, P O Box 200701, 444-5633 and (insert name of contractor), (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor"), whose address and phone number are (insert address) and (insert phone number).

#### THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

### 2. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE, DURATION, AND RENEWAL</u>

- **2.1** Contract Term. This contract shall take effect on April 1, 2006, or upon contract execution and terminate on March 31, 2008, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of this contract. (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-313.)
- **2.2** Contract Renewal. This contract may, upon mutual agreement between the parties and according to the terms of the existing contract, be renewed in two -year intervals, or any interval that is advantageous to the State. This contract, including any renewals, may not exceed a total of tour years.

## 3. <u>COST/PRICE ADJUSTMENTS</u>

3.1 Price Adjustments Negotiated Based on Changes in Contractor's Costs. Price adjustments may be permitted at the time of contract renewal through a process of negotiation with the Contractor and the State. Any price increases must be based on demonstrated industry-wide or regional increases in the Contractor's costs. Publications such as the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all Urban Consumers may be used to determine the increased value.

#### 4. SERVICES AND/OR SUPPLIES

Contractor agrees to provide to the State the following: to facilitate the Montana Sagebrush Initiative Program, including contacting and working with landowners; completing application and agreement forms; conducting field reviews of potential project sites; mapping project areas and sagebrush distribution via use of laptop computer, maps, and GPS; determining land ownership and legal descriptions; and notarizing documents. Work will require on-site meetings at various locations around Montana as well as setting up appointments for coordinating the completion of applications and contracts. Contractor will communicate progress, coordinate with, and receive instruction from FWP Bird Coordinator in Helena.

#### 5. **CONSIDERATION/PAYMENT**

- 5.1 Payment Schedule. In consideration for the facilitation of the Montana Sagebrush Initiative Program, the State shall pay according to the following schedule: FWP shall pay monthly as work is completed. All invoices to be submitted to liaison who will approve invoices for payment.
- 5.2 <u>Withholding of Payment.</u> The State may withhold payments to the Contractor if the Contractor has not performed in accordance with this contract. Such withholding cannot be greater than the additional costs to the State caused by the lack of performance.

#### 6. ACCESS AND RETENTION OF RECORDS

<u>6.1 Access to Records.</u> The Contractor agrees to provide the State, Legislative Auditor or their authorized agents access to any records necessary to determine contract compliance. (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-1-118.)

#### 7. ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER AND SUBCONTRACTING

The Contractor shall not assign, transfer or subcontract any portion of this contract without the express written consent of the State. (Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-141.) The Contractor shall be responsible to the State for the acts and omissions of all subcontractors or agents and of persons directly or indirectly employed by such subcontractors, and for the acts and omissions of persons employed directly by the Contractor. No contractual relationships exist between any subcontractor and the State.

#### 8. HOLD HARMLESS/INDEMNIFICATION

The Contractor agrees to protect, defend, and save the State, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, while acting within the scope of their duties as such, harmless from and against all claims, demands, causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, arising in favor of the Contractor's employees or third parties on account of bodily or personal injuries, death, or damage to property arising out of services performed or omissions of services or in any way resulting from the acts or omissions of the Contractor and/or its agents, employees, representatives, assigns, subcontractors, except the sole negligence of the State, under this agreement.

### 10. COMPLIANCE WITH WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Contractors are required to comply with the provisions of the Montana Workers' Compensation Act while performing work for the State of Montana in accordance with sections 39-71-401, 39-71-405, and 39-71-417, MCA. Proof of compliance must be in the form of workers' compensation insurance, an independent contractor's exemption, or documentation of corporate officer status. Neither the contractor nor its employees are employees of the State. This insurance/exemption must be valid for the entire term of the contract. A renewal document must be sent to **Fish Wildlife and Parks**, upon expiration.

#### 11. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

The Contractor must, in performance of work under this contract, fully comply with all applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules and regulations, including the Montana Human Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any subletting or subcontracting by the Contractor subjects subcontractors to the same provision. In accordance with section 49-3-207, MCA, the Contractor agrees that the hiring of persons to perform the contract will be made on the basis of merit and qualifications and there will be no discrimination based upon race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or national origin by the persons performing the contract.

#### 15. CONTRACT TERMINATION

<u>15.1 Termination for Convenience.</u> The State may, by written notice to the Contractor, terminate this contract without cause. The State must give notice of termination to the Contractor at least 30 days

**15.2** Reduction of Funding. The State, at its sole discretion, may terminate or reduce the scope of this contract if available funding is reduced for any reason. (See Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-313(4).)

#### 16. LIAISON AND SERVICE OF NOTICES

All project management and coordination on behalf of the State shall be through a single point of contact designated as the State's liaison. Contractor shall designate a liaison that will provide the single point of contact for management and coordination of Contractor's work. All work performed pursuant to this contract shall be coordinated between the State's liaison and the Contractor's liaison.

Rick Northrup will be the liaison for the State. PO Box 700201 Helena, MT 59620 Telephone: (406) 444-5633 Fax: (406) 444-4952 E-mail: rnorthrup@mt.gov

will be the liaison for the Contractor.

(Address):

(City, State, ZIP): Telephone:

Cell Phone:

Fax: E-mail:

The State's liaison and Contractor's liaison may be changed by written notice to the other party. Written notices, requests, or complaints will first be directed to the liaison.

#### 17. **MEETINGS**

The Contractor is required to meet with the State's personnel, or designated representatives, to resolve technical or contractual problems that may occur during the term of the contract or to discuss the progress made by Contractor and the State in the performance of their respective obligations, at no additional cost to the State. Meetings will occur as problems arise and will be coordinated by the State. The Contractor will be given a minimum of three full working days notice of meeting date, time, and location. Face-to-face meetings are desired. However, at the Contractor's option and expense, a conference call meeting may be substituted. Consistent failure to participate in problem resolution meetings, two consecutive missed or rescheduled meetings, or to make a good faith effort to resolve problems may result in termination of the contract.

#### 19. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

If this contract is not renewed at the end of this term, or is terminated prior to the completion of a project, or if the work on a project is terminated, for any reason, the Contractor must provide for a reasonable period of time after the expiration or termination of this project or contract, all reasonable transition assistance requested by the State, to allow for the expired or terminated portion of the services to continue without interruption or adverse effect, and to facilitate the orderly transfer of such services to the State or its designees. Such transition assistance will be deemed by the parties to be governed by the terms and conditions of this contract, except for those terms or conditions that do not reasonably apply to such transition assistance. The State shall pay the Contractor for any resources utilized in performing such transition assistance at the most current rates provided by the contract. If there are no established contract rates, then the rate shall be mutually agreed upon. If the State terminates a project or this contract for cause, then the State will be entitled to offset the cost of paying the Contractor for the additional resources the Contractor utilized in providing transition assistance with any damages the State may have otherwise accrued as a result of said termination.

#### 20. **CHOICE OF LAW AND VENUE**

This contract is governed by the laws of Montana. The parties agree that any litigation concerning this bid, proposal or subsequent contract must be brought in the First Judicial District in and for the County of Lewis and Clark, State of Montana and each party shall pay its own costs and attorney fees. (See Mont. Code Ann. § 18-1-401.)

## 21. SCOPE, AMENDMENT AND INTERPRETATION

**21.1 Contract.** This contract consists of (insert number) numbered pages, any Attachments as required, RFP # 060135, as amended and the Contractor's RFP response as amended. In the case of dispute or ambiguity about the minimum levels of performance by the Contractor the order of precedence of document interpretation is in the same order.

**21.2 Entire Agreement.** These documents contain the entire agreement of the parties. Any enlargement, alteration or modification requires a written amendment signed by both parties.

## 22. EXECUTION

Fish Wildlife and Parks

The parties through their authorized agents have executed this contract on the dates set out below.

Wildlife Division P O Box 200701 Helena MT 59620		(INSERT CONTRACTOR'S NAME) (Insert Address) (Insert City, State, Zip)
BY:(Name/Title)		BY:(Name/Title)
BY:(Signature)		BY:(Signature)
DATE:		DATE:
Approved as to Legal Content:		
Legal Counsel Agency:	(Date)	
Approved as to Form:		
Procurement Officer State Procurement Bureau	(Date)	